



CROSSTALK

News Bulletin of the **TRW** Amateur Radio Club



Volume 96 Number 12

December 1996



*Merry
Christmas*



Editor's Notes

Those of you who for one reason or another, could not attend the Banquet, well you missed a superb one!. This issue is late because I wanted to comment on it. Our biggest thanks goes out to Gordon West, WB6NOA for being our guest speaker for two years in a row. Gordon put on a super show for us once again, my xyl who's not a amateur was also real impressed with Gordon's show.

The food was very good, plenty for the hearty eaters, the awards were very deserving, especially the award from the city of Manhattan Beach!, and let's not forget the prizes!!!! I've enclosed a few pictures of the event in this issue for your enjoyment.....

Merry Christmas and have a safe and Happy New Year

Other Business

I've compiled the questionnaires that I have received so far, you know, it was in the August issue. Thank You to those 10 individuals (you know who you are...) who took out the time to respond, especially Terry Thompson who sent me a qmail from his new qth "down under", Thanks Terry! Here are the results;

Most everyone has a PC, and would like to see equipment reviews, antenna projects, articles for new hams, electronic projects, and liked receiving the CROSSTALK each month.....

I'll try to meet these needs in 1997!!

The following club members have changed their calls:

Frank Cartier W6FC

Bill Shanney W6QR

Larry Shapiro K6RO

Bill Whiddon NM6X

Congratulations on your new calls.....

Also in this issue is the latest news regarding the building S HF rebuild.

The Harbor Cleanup went well, I will post a few pictures in the next Crosstalk, courtesy of Vivian Sadler, KD6NBK

TRWARC Monthly Calendar of Events

December 1996:

Tuesday, December 3	5:30 pm	Executive Board Meeting 01/1210 (All Club Members are invited)
Tuesday, December	5:30 pm	Cathy's Deli
Friday, December 20	12:00 noon	Technical Chairman's Meeting Building S Hamshack
Tuesday, December 12	12:00 noon	Emergency Communications Team Meeting R3 Emergency Operations Center
Saturday, December 28	7:00 am	TRW/ARC Swap Meet Marine and Aviation (Northeast Corner)
Saturday, December 28	12:00 noon	T-Hunt Swap Meet Parking Lot - 144.72 MHz

Reoccurring Events:

Every Monday Night (Except the 1st & Holidays)	7:30 pm	Disaster Communication Systems (DCS) Net DCS Members: Check in on 2 Meter Repeater
Every Wednesday	12:00 noon	ECT Net on 2 meter Repeater
Every Thursday Night	6:30 pm	TRW Amateur Radio Club Net The Bob and ? Show - Check In on 2 Meter Repeater
Every Friday Morning	7:30 am	TRW Amateur Radio Club Breakfast Building S Cafeteria - Everyone is invited Talk-in on 2 Meters

Other Events

Computer Marketplace (Computer Shows) *Hours: 10:00 to 17:00*

POMONA \$8 admission

December 7 & 8 (Sat. & Sun.) December 28 & 29 (Sat. & Sun.)

Fairplex Exposition Complex Exit Highway 10 at Fairplex Drive.

Go north to McKinley Avenue, turn right. Turn left on White Avenue to Gate 14.

BUENA PARK \$5 admission

December 1 (Sun.)

Sequoia Conference Center Take the Beach Blvd. exit off the 91 Freeway.

Go one block north to 7530 Orangethorpe.

SANTA BARBARA \$5 admission

December 21 (Sat.)

Earl Warren Showgrounds Take Highway 101 to the Las Positas Exit.

All Shows Open to the Public 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Call for more information (408) 778-5200 or 800-800-5600 Fax# (408) 779-1374

Other Ham Swap meets:

Inland Empire ARC - 2nd Sat. ea. mo. @ A.B. Miller High School, Walnut & Olenander in Fontana - Talk-in 145.480 (-600 pl=77.0hz)

CAMRA - 3rd Sat. ea. mo. @ DeVry Institute, 901 Corporate Center Dr. **Pomona** - Talk-in 146.175 (+600)

El Cajon ARC - 1st Sat. ea. mo. @ Santee Drive-in Theater, Woodside Ave. @ Hwy 67 in Santee

447 Repeater Autopatch Guidelines by Pat Anderson, KB6YPI

Some club members have mentioned to me that some 447 autopatch users are not following some of the basic rules for using the autopatch so here are the basics:

1. Listen first to make sure the frequency is clear
2. Key up the mike and wait a second or two (there is slight delay and the first part of your call sign may get cut off) give your call sign and say "auto patch" then enter code
3. When call is complete enter code to terminate call then give your call sign and say "auto patch clear"

The autopatch is for authorized users only do not give out codes.

Make sure you renew your membership because the autopatch will be purged of any non members early 1997.

Do not conduct business on the autopatch.

There are several service numbers that are programmed in the autopatch if you don't have these numbers please contact me

Patrick Anderson KB6YPI

Building S HF antenna rebuild news by Dave Nelson, AB6DU

Warmest greetings to all who have been following the progress of the radio club antenna project. It's time to update everyone on the status of this effort, not having done that for several weeks.

There has been real progress. The tower itself is up, as you can easily see. You couldn't see from the street all the details, of course, so heres a few words on that. The guy wires had to be attached using special end grip attachments, then securely fastened to the eyebolts in the building and pulled to a few hundred pounds tension. Finally, all the shackle bolts etc that could possibly work loose were safety wired and we called for an inspection by the city of Redondo Beach to complete the constrution phase. The city did finally get around to inspecting it, found all acceptable except to install a ground cable from the tower to a building ground point. This has now been installed.

We have worked related antenna installations as part of the whole project. The R7 vertical was cleaned up, painted for corrosion protection (we paint all our antennas now), and moved to the North end of the roof. By the way, 15 meters was open Saturday - I worked a Louisiana station with 100% copy. HF is coming back! It is going to be raised about 15 feet above the windscreen after other antenna work is completed. (We use the mast for a gin pole and other things in the meantime) But it is now operational so you can operate HF from building S anytime you want to try. If you want to be checked out on the rig, call me and I'll be glad to show you around.

The OSCAR antenna was located such that it hit the tower guy when rotated. So, we exchanged it with the TV/1.2 GHz antennas. That opened the problems of the OSCAR array, and now we need to finish that antenna cleanup. When we moved it, we found that there was some corrosion on connectors, the preamps needed some maintenance, etc. etc. It still isn't finished. but the work for this antenna pair will be a lot easier than the tower antennas, so it is being put off for the time being. Also, the 2 meter rig used with it seems to have a very bad noise figure and that hasn't been thoroughly checked out either. We thought we had an operating OSCAR system, but it didn't survive the antenna move.

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Building S HF antenna rebuild news continued

The TV/1.2 GHz pair were successfully moved, but the heavy wind last Friday ripped them off the mast support. The TV antenna was the only one to sustain damage, but I don't think it was fatal. It got bent up a bit but should still "work". The 1.2 GHz antenna is very rugged and showed no signs of damage. We have found a sturdier mast for this pair and will use it when we raise them again.

Sounds like we lost ground, doesn't it? It isn't really all that bad.

Now a few words about the remaining tower work and the HF antennas. The WARC tribander is ready to go up. We think the 40 meter dipole is also ready, but have not been able to get it up very high for a believable checkout. That should happen easily next Saturday and I hope that settles that. Then we will have two of the three antennas ready to go up.

The tower itself is the next and highest priority item to address. The tower will use two concentric thrust bearings to hold and align the heavy mast. It is important to get this mast set right to minimize stress on the rotator. When completed, the mast and three antennas will weigh about 200 pounds. The top antenna will be about 17 feet above the tower top. So the next task is to install the thrust bearings and support shelves/brackets and pull the 80 pound mast up through the center of the two thrust bearings. If this looks good, we can pull the WARC triband beam up and attach it to the mast top. Then, with the mast/antenna weighing about 115 pounds, pull the mast up another 6 feet and lock it in position. Now the 40 meter dipole can be raised and attached. If that goes easily, the mast and two antennas can be raised to final height so that the rotator can be pulled up and slipped into place against the mast. This final step is the one where we need the correct alignment and probably will take all day to get right. Interesting process, isn't it?

I believe raising the big KLM triband beam will take a day by itself. This antenna weighs about 75 pounds itself and has a 32 foot long boom. There are six elements and they go about 25 feet long. It must clear the guy wires to get up, then be attached and checked out. If it needs retuning, it goes up and down until it does check out right. That could be an interesting day by itself.

Next Saturday, December 7, there will be an antenna party. (It's party season, right?) All interested people can meet at the shack at 8 AM. We plan to work until about noon. Latecomers are welcome, of course. We might even work later than noon, depending on how the day goes, so if you can't get there until 11, it's still worth while to drop in. You might catch us on the 145.32 repeater, or call the shack at ext 38569.

Besides the usual antenna and cable things, we want to document some of the work with photos. If anyone of you readers out there want to participate but are reluctant because of no previous experience with antennas, you can contribute by snapping photos for posterity. Just watching the way things go will then raise your confidence for a future antenna party - maybe even one of your own. (And I'll be glad to handle the camera for your affair.)

Interested people please call ext 39775 or return qmail. I can better plan things if I have an idea who and when is coming.

I have to compliment the club as a whole for general support and interest in this project. It really helps if I know some of you want to use this stuff when it's done. And for the ongoing turnout of real workers, it's been very satisfying to see the response. My honest thanks to you as an enthusiastic club to help make all this happen. I'm having so much fun I hope we can do it again next year.

73,
Dave, AB6DU



Sgt. Andy Harrod of MBPD presents a award to the club. Received by Rich Sauer (Mr. TRW) and our President Bob Briggs, KB6WYQ



The awards were well deserved...
Our Vice-President for 1996
Pat Anderson KB6YPI



Our featured guest speaker - Gordon West
WB6NOA did a superb job that night!



The food was plentiful and good!



It was also this Editors' 40th Birthday arrgghh



Hey! I think this guy walked away with one
of the Grand Prizes.... Congrats Stan